



The Metropolitan District

water supply • environmental services • geographic information

STATEMENT OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 5130

The Metropolitan District (“MDC”) is a specially chartered municipal non-profit corporation established by the State of Connecticut General Assembly by Special Act in 1929 (SP.ACT.511) and provides water and sanitary sewer services to its eight member towns—Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor—as well as portions of other towns within the region. The MDC provides quality drinking water to approximately 100,000 customers within its member towns, and by separate agreements, provides water to portions of East Granby, Farmington, Glastonbury, Portland, South Windsor and Unionville. In addition, the MDC maintains emergency water connections to Berlin, New Britain and Windsor Locks, and provides raw water to the Connecticut Water Company through its Collinsville Water Treatment Plant. **The MDC has significant concerns with House Bill 5130.**

As part of its water supply, treatment and distribution system the MDC maintains fourteen (14) dams, eleven (11) of which would fall under the requirements of HB 5130. Of those, ten (10) are considered Class C – High Hazard dams and one (1) is considered a Class B – Significant Hazard dam. All of the MDC dams are inspected by internal staff on a monthly basis, and we follow an aggressive maintenance and repair protocol. The MDC works closely with Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) staff to ensure the safety and integrity of each dam. In addition, because the MDC’s Goodwin Dam includes a hydroelectric power generation component, we must comply with very strict standards imposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. On an as-needed basis, the MDC retains third party consultants to supplement our staff in the inspection, repair and maintenance functions as well. Further, the MDC has adopted an emergency action plan called for under the new Section 5 of the HB 5130.

While the MDC generally supports the public policy rationale behind this proposed bill, we have some concern with the costs to our ratepayers, both in terms of the annual registration fees and the inspection and auditing requirements that may be established by DEEP regulation. The MDC’s **annual** fees under this proposal would be \$47,500.00. The purpose of these fees is not detailed within the language of the proposed bill. The costs for registration, inspection, filing, independent audits and appeals appear to be borne solely by the dam owner, and in our case, passed on to the customer. If the bill moves forward, we would suggest an amendment to include the MDC, along with the State of Connecticut, as exempt from the imposition of any fees in Section 4(e).

You may contact me at Chadwick & Stone, Governmental Relations, LLC, 111 Founders Plaza, Suite 1702, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108, or by phone at (860) 610-4500 (o) or (860) 214-0503 (c). Thank you for your consideration.